



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Rowlett Community Centre
5300 Main Street, Rowlett TX 75088

PRESENT Chair: Mike DeLatte; Vice Chair: Dolores Henning; Members: Richard Kull, Eve Johnson, Donna Ferguson, Rebecca Day, Michael Schupp; Alternates: Elise Bowers, Kristy Andrade

ABSENT: Corrie Cabral

VISITORS: Deb Shinder

STAFF: Shelly Monroe, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Kari Pacheco, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation; Blake Margolis, City Council

1. Chair Mike DeLatte called meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Quorum present.
2. Consider approving minutes from the regular meeting held March 9, 2022.
 - A. Eve Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
 - B. Richard Kull seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 7 - 0.
3. Citizen Input.

Deb Shinder as a City Council candidate is visiting the board.
4. Soccer Association presentation.
 - A. Richard Moreno, VP of Operations, presented information on Rowlett Youth Soccer Association and their mission statement. Shared their organizational chart. Provided metrics of teams per a season since 2018 which showed significant drop during 2020 due to COVID. Talked about their promotion and social media efforts and have been tracking it within past two years. They interleague with Royse City, Wylie Youth Soccer, Richard Youth Soccer and Caddo Mills Youth. Treasury report is from September 1, 2021 through November 11, 2021
 - B. The restroom facility installed at Community Park has been a huge win. There is a wish for improvement of the fields. Rowlett's fields are about 3rd compared to Wylie and Richardson, although Rowlett's fields are better than Caddo Mills and Royse City. Question asked about parents knowing where to park due to safety issues and he explained their process and expectations. Question asked about signage and K. Pacheco said staff is talking about placing more signage. Suggested to use solar flashing on some of the signs so it would be more visual for the drivers.
5. Special Message from City Council.
 - A. Blake Margolis showed an appreciation video for members.
 - B. Last night there was a special meeting on how to allocate some funding and \$1.5 million will be spent towards erosion control on city property.
 - C. Early voting begins April 25th and election is on May 7th.



6. Dan Robert's Environmental Learning Center update.

Mike DeLatte stated Keep Rowlett Beautiful (KRB) had plans to attend this meeting, but scheduling conflict occurred. He communicated with KRB on the multiple questions this board compiled to follow up on this project. Questions revolved around the building of facility, funding, and fundraising. Fundraising for \$10 million is planned to begin this fall. The build will be in three phases and the first phase will cost about \$2 million. Construction must begin within 10 years of GISD transferring ownership of the property to the City of Rowlett. As a reminder in the 2015 Bond Election, \$250,000 was approved for this project. A comprehensive strategic plan will be developed in partnership with City of Rowlett as plans are finalized then a timeline can be created.

7. Rowlett Spring Fishing Tournament.

Michael Schupp provided information on Spring White Bass spawning. Every year hundreds of people come to Rowlett to take part in the annual spawning from March through mid-April. Curious if this board would be interested in considering an event or activity evolved around this that would be unique for Rowlett. Possible activities such as get someone to host a spring fishing tournament or hold a White Bass Festival or register fisherman to keep a total of their catch through the season such as a virtual event. Board members liked this idea to highlight Rowlett and draw tourism. This will take some planning but could possibly plan something for next year. There is already a given audience of over 3,000 members on Facebook, therefore would not have to create the audience.

8. Coyle House update.

Kari Pacheco stated vents are being installed on the roof and within the second level to help the house breath. It was discovered that critters made a home in the insulation therefore this week it will be cleaned out. The carpet is being pulled and the hardwood floors will be stripped and stain. There should be some remaining funds to complete a few more things. The City of Rowlett has partnered with KRB on the landscape plan. Hopefully by next meeting all these projects will be completed. A Master Naturalist is assisting for low maintenance landscaping.

9. Rowlett Parks Board events update.

- A. Kid Fish: D. Henning and M. Schupp will be there April 23rd and discussed what they would like at their table.
- B. Cardboard Boat April 23rd: R. Kull reported the boat is ready. Briefly discussed the promotion for this event.
- C. Paddle Boating: K. Andrade needs to consider a different date such as June 4th or June 25th since Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission is hosting a Juneteenth event on June 18th.

10. Urban Forestry committee update.

Michael Schupp stated the last communication with Oncor was 2 weeks ago in which they discussed a wish list of the objective for the event, for example donation of 1000 five-gallon trees and bring in foresters. Oncor is sending the information to upper management and still waiting to hear from them. RETREET may be a contact for an alternative assistance and R. Day offered to research, but it is believed the trees are only donated and replanted as a disaster relief. Texas Tree Foundation could be a contact. November 6th is Arbor Day.



11. Social Media subcommittee update.

Eve Johnson mentioned there are no specific plans now. Members were asked for ideas for the next video promotion. One idea is to get education to citizens on Herfurth Park phase 1. Another idea is on Coyle House since having repair work done and will soon open back up for reservation.

12. Assistant Director's Report

- A. Events: Lunch on the Lawn continues through May 2nd from 11am - 2pm on Mondays downtown. The Camp Out event was a great success and board members who helped were thanked. Memorial Day celebration to be held on May 28th. Farmers Market started.
- B. Rowlett Community Centre: Youth basketball is ending; Volleyball and youth baseball will soon begin; There are still open recreation positions. Hosting a Cornhole Tournament downtown. A new Recreation Specialist, Matt Yates, began this week.
- C. Parks: Pollinator bed is being installed at Schrade Bluebonnet Park in partnership with Neighborhood Planning and KRB.
- D. Aquatics: Busy hiring summer staff.
- E. Projects: Kids Kingdom playground surface had some repairs under the zip-line and coating the surface. Staff is working with the vendor to correct some things that were not properly finished so there may be more intermittent closures. The equipment for the disc golf course has been delivered and the vendor will be on site in May. Herfurth Park Phase 1 construction design is due Friday and then the next step is the bidding process. Lake Highland Trail, final walk through is complete and the contractor will address some areas that need to be re-poured, new sod or cleaned up. A grand opening will be planned.
- F. Mike DeLatte mentioned some signage is missing at Community Park and the entrance to park could use some improvement. Dolores Henning said with all the winds the trash is blowing onto the fields from the landfill dump into Community Park, therefore asked if Garland should take care of this issue and could a screen be put up to help with this issue. Blake Margolis responded that he would contact the Garland mayor or a city council member. Rebecca Day inquired about a communication board being placed at Kids Kingdom. Kari Pacheco replied this will be done for Kids Kingdom, but it has not been decided for other parks.
- G. KRB placed in the Governor's Community Achievement Award the grant and will receive state funding for landscaping the median. A brief discussion was held on the cost of the maintenance of the medians and how staff will move forward from the first time awarded with this funding

13. No Public announcements by members of the Board and/or staff can be made.

14. Members of the Board may request topics for future agenda meetings.

- A. Nature Trail update
- B. Coyle House update
- C. Community Task Force update

15. Adjournment at 8:17 p.m.



Mike DeLatte, Chair



Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director